





# SUN History

continued from page 8

roll bands and the general growth of an alternative, rainbow community. It's primary focus in those early days, however, was the effort to "Free John Now!" The paper was the major source of information on John's case in Michigan, helping to involve tens of thousands in the effort to gain his release. Culminating in the December 10 Freedom Rally, where a special SUN edition of 15,000 copies was handed out free, the Free John Now movement was a success, and Sinclair walked free on December 13.

From there the focus of the SUN, along with its general coverage of local events, turned to the Human Rights Party and the elections of April, 1972. The paper focused on HRP candidates issue after issue; interviewing them, reporting on their activities, printing the HRP platform and program, urging people to register to vote, etc. Some months before the election the SUN was being handed out free in a bi-weekly

edition of 15,000.

Nancy Wechsler and Jerry DeGriek of the HRP were elected to office that year, the \$5 marijuana law was passed, and spirits had never been higher. The paper turned to the state-wide initiative (MMI) to decriminalize marijuana and the effort to organize a local Tribal Council. The functioning of the People's Ballroom, the Blues and Jazz Festival, WNRZ and the Washington St. Community Center became major items of coverage, along with regular news and features in the political, musical and cultural realms.

But soon unforeseen changes set in. The Community Center and Ballroom burned down in December of '72. Also at that time the Human Rights Party began abandoning its original direction and became dominated by isolated ideologues who decided a major focus of the fall campaign should be opposing McGovern, who seriously proposed a platform plank that would demand that everyone use female pronouns all the time, who spread themselves too thin in too many races and lost every one. The SUN turned critical of the HRP which later went on to repeat their mistaken approach and

split the vote in April of '72 to elect a Republican Mayor and Majority.

While this was happening, financial woes began beating down the paper, which was supported by loans gathered by the RPP and not enough through advertising. Plus the RPP was undergoing tremendous financial problems and internal changes of membership. So the SUN was forced to stop publication altogether on January 23, 1973, until May of that year.

In addition the paper had other problems of a different nature. Without realizing it, the people working on the SUN were becoming far too isolated from the rest of what was happening in town. Too much of their world was filled only with the activities going on from Hill Street and not enough of the rest of Ann Arbor. The SUN over-emphasized the activities of the RPP, which published it with nothing but the best of intentions, and of the fledgling Tribal Council. The activities of those two groups were certainly worthy of printspace, but so was a great deal more. Eventually the staff that remained realized the SUN had to change drastically.

The first move was to get out from the basement of Hill Street in order to become more accessible and inter-related with the rest of town, to become more of a community newspaper. The paper was no longer published or edited by the RPP, nor was it financially supported by it any longer, although Linda Ross of the RPP took a leading role in reviving the SUN over the summer. Offices were secured downtown on First St. above the Blind Pig cafe.

Since that time the SUN has published bi-weekly, coming out consistently on time since October. It has grown from 16 pages to the present 32. Losing money until just 4 issues ago, the paper went thousands of dollars into debt in order to sustain itself and work to regain the community's confidence. The SUN is now run by an Editorial Collective with no RPP members on it, which decides the paper's direction along with the entire working staff. Most of the faces are new. There's still plenty of room for more helpers in the editorial, art and business areas.

This year the paper has also retained its goal of community activism. The SUN spearheaded the drive to stop McDonald's, exposed undercover narcotics agents, helped re-enact the \$5 weed law which took effect today, and uncovered the campaign by Citizens for Good Housing to defeat rent control. Our coverage includes local and national news (though we need more in-depth news articles), features on health, food, music, politics and culture, and regular columns for record, concert, movie and book reviews. We are continually seeking more input and suggestions for how we can continue to expand and better serve the SUN's readers, who are the only reason we exist in the first place.

—SUN Editorial Board  
May 1, 1974

## Lawsuit

continued from page 14

of their investigations. Following the ruling by the Supreme Court, the CIA Conspiracy Trial was dropped by the Justice Department as were many other political trials. Sinclair, Plamondon and Forrest countered by filing a half million dollar lawsuit for illegal wiretapping against Nixon, John Mitchell, L. Patrick Gray, Richard Kleindienst and the estate of J. Edgar Hoover.

In April 1973 the judge hearing preliminary motions in the suit, summarily dismissed President Nixon as a defendant. This was done without notifying attorneys for the plaintiffs and without arguments or a public hearing.

The May 2nd hearing is seeking to have the judge reconsider his decision of April, '73. The lawyers will argue that the judge acted improperly in dismissing Nixon from the suit since the Chief Executive had personally ordered the illegal wiretapping and the Attorney General was acting as his "alter ego" in carrying out the wiretaps.

## City Budget

continued from page 6

investigations decreased for the second year in a row. She then asked how this reflected Krasny's expressed priority on stopping hard drug traffic. Krasny responded that hard drugs are the police's primary concern, and that marijuana arrests usually occur when someone is arrested for another offense.

Underlying Krasny's appearance was the understanding that his budget will probably remain unchanged. In order to alter the city administrator's proposed budget, seven votes are required, and no likely combination of parties on Council could come up with that number. The three parties on City Council will be presenting their own budget alternatives, but this will serve mainly to show the people where they stand, since none is likely to get the necessary seven votes.

Police Department priorities will not change until channels for community input are provided. This can best be done through some form of community control of the Police Department. Until that happens, the people of Ann Arbor can expect to see little substantive change in this most intransigent area of city government.

—David Goodman

## COMPLETE 4-CHANNEL TECHNICS / SUPER- SCOPE / GLENBURN SOUND SYSTEM



**TECHNICS 4-Channel/2-Channel Receiver** **\$329.95**  
32-watt (RMS at 8 ohms) AM/FM stereo receiver. Discrete 4-channel amplifier. Matrix circuitry. 4-pole MOS FET. BTL circuitry. 2 tape monitors. 4 separate level controls. Walnut cabinet. Model SA-5400X.

**FOUR SUPERSCOPE S-18 SPEAKERS** **\$199.90**  
(\$99.95 pair)

**GLENBURN 1120 TURNTABLE** **\$94.90**  
with base, dust cover, and magnetic cartridge

**TOTAL RETAIL VALUE OF \$624.75**

**Mister Music**  
SOUND STUDIOS

**IN BRIARWOOD MALL**  
OPEN DAILY 9:30-9:30  
SUNDAYS FROM NOON-5:00  
**769-4080**